

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: R. W. Manners
Director, Foreign Broadcast
Information Service

EXTENSION

NO.

FBIS-2006/88

DATE

11 March 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

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OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Chief, Administrative
Staff, DDS&T
Room 6E45, Headquarters

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FORM 1-83 **600** OBSOLETE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

FBIS-2006/88
11 March 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM: R. W. Manners
Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Meritorious Unit Citation -
London Bureau

1. I recommend that FBIS London Bureau be awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation for sustained superior performance throughout calendar year 1987 in providing U.S. Government consumers with voluminous, timely, and accurate reporting on Soviet affairs during a period of crucial developments in relations with this country.

2. Throughout a year of complex negotiations leading up to the December summit in Washington and the signing of the INF treaty, Moscow frequently used its central media to announce, or to imply, shifts in its position on INF issues. From CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev's 28 February statement on medium range missiles in Europe, monitored from pressfax coverage of PRAVDA, through Soviet media coverage of his July remarks to an Indonesian paper on the "double zero" option, to the bureau's superb response to events surrounding the Washington summit in December, the alert reaction of London Bureau monitors and editors earned numerous expressions of praise and appreciation.

3. While the INF negotiations formed the centerpiece of the bureau's efforts during the year, and Soviet-U.S. sparring prior to the summit generated a substantial volume of copy, the outstanding efforts of the entire bureau on a number of other major developments elicited commendations from the Wire Service, Analysis Group, and FBIS consumers. Bureau handling of coverage of Gorbachev's visit to Czechoslovakia in April, of the Soviet defense minister's resignation and replacement at the end of May, and of the flood of material surrounding the CPSU Central Committee session in June--including the 25,000-word speech by General Secretary Gorbachev--were all exemplary. Bureau reporting on the 6-day celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, beginning with Gorbachev's marathon speech on 2 November and concluding with the traditional Red Square parade on the 7th, was commended as a "masterly job" by the Chief of Analysis Group and the Chief of Operations Group.

4. The outstanding efforts of monitors and editors were matched by those of the Communications Section, which produced record levels of wordage and responded with flexibility and professionalism to an extraordinary workload. In addition to the exceptional volume of wordage produced by London Bureau itself, throughout the summer and again for a period in October the bureau's communicators received all Austria Bureau traffic and relayed it onward until problems with Vienna's main circuit could be resolved.

5. Thanks to the flawless preparations of the London Bureau Engineering Section, relaying of foreign television via Internet was inaugurated in January with the first transmissions of the Vremya program from Moscow TV, followed later in the month by the beginning of relays from Tripoli TV. The continuing hard work of everyone involved in ensuring the success of the Internet project throughout the year has made these first tentative steps now seem routine as FBIS and London Bureau begin looking forward to expanding its operations into relaying West European TV in the near future.

6. The outstanding dedication and professionalism of the employees of London Bureau have enabled FBIS to provide the Intelligence Community with a large volume of prompt and accurate reporting on the Soviet Union during a crucial year in the development of U.S.-Soviet relations. I believe their collective achievement warrants recognition in the form of a Meritorious Unit Citation.



R. W. Manners

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APPROVED:

Deputy Director for Science and Technology

Date

CITATION

FBIS London Bureau

Is hereby awarded a

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

In recognition of its sustained superior performance throughout calendar year 1987 in providing the U.S. Government with a large volume of prompt and accurate reporting on the Soviet Union during a period of crucial developments in U.S.-Soviet relations. The skill, professionalism and dedication of the members of the bureau staff contributed significantly to meeting the information needs of U.S. Government policymakers throughout a period of complex arms control negotiations and at a time of major change within the Soviet Union. This very substantial achievement brings credit to the entire bureau staff and to FBIS.